

NEWS RELEASE

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GREGG APPLAUDS PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH INCREASED FEDERAL DOLLARS

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg today issued the following statement in response to President George W. Bush's budget request for increased funding for the reforms set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act.

"I applaud the President's announcement today, in which he continues his strong commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a high quality education, by requesting a \$1 billion increase for Title I, the key federal education program serving our neediest students and the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind Act.

"The President's commitment to Title I and the other K-12 federal education programs follows an extensive evaluation and overhaul of these programs which resulted in the historic No Child Left Behind Act. The Act was signed into law one year ago this month and it represents a significant departure from the status quo as it requires, for the first time, that school districts provide a high quality education for *all* their students. To ensure that no groups of children are routinely left behind, schools must test their students annually in reading and math in the third through eight grades.

"If Congress approves this significant increase for Title I, total spending on this critical program will reach \$12.35 billion per year. To put this in perspective, in the last years of the Clinton Administration, funding requests for Title I never exceeded \$300 million. In fact, Title I has increased more in the first two years of the Bush Administration than it did during President Clinton's previous seven years combined.

"President Bush's request for significant funding increases for the NCLBA renews his commitment to the success of these important programs, even as some in the education community argue that they should not be held accountable for teaching all students until they get even more money. This shameless position should not be tolerated by any parent in the country, and it is an insult to the millions of teachers, principals and school administrators who are closing the achievement gap through high standards and accountability."

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